



# VFC PROGRAM ALERT #2

## July 19, 2012 – 1 page

TO: Vaccine Manager, VFC Agreement Signatory, Clinic Manager  
FROM: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, Public Health-Seattle & King County  
TEL: (206) 296-4774, FAX: (206) 205-5780

### RETURNING SPOILED OR EXPIRED VACCINES

#### CHOOSE THE CORRECT FORM

- Use the "Vaccine Incident Report" form for returning all regular vaccines such as DTaP, MMR, PCV and Hepatitis.
- Use the "Flu Vaccine Return" form for all spoiled or expired flu vaccine.
- Both forms are available on the King County VFC Web page:  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/immunization/vfc.aspx>.

#### GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING THE FORM

- Expired or spoiled vaccines in vials or prefilled syringes that have not been opened should always be returned. The VFC Program receives a tax credit for each returned dose.
- If you are returning multiple lot numbers of the same vaccine, list the number of doses returned by lot number.
- Do not return partially used multi-dose vials. Dispose of them as you would other biohazardous waste. Only intact, sealed vials should actually be returned. However, doses that must be wasted because the vial is damaged or broken, or that were drawn up but not used within the recommended time frame should also be listed on the correct return form. Go to [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/downloads/Mar\\_09/S\\_&\\_H.ppt](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/downloads/Mar_09/S_&_H.ppt) for more information on time limits for vaccine usage following reconstitution.
- Expired, spoiled and damaged vaccines do not require refrigeration. Remove them from the refrigerator or freezer to prevent vaccine administration errors.
- Fax the form to Public Health (206-205-5780) and the state Dept. of Health (360-236-3597).
- Wait for a prepaid postage label, mailed to the attention of the person who completed the return form, sent from McKesson Distribution. **Be patient.** The CDC is working on improvements to the system and it may be a month or more until the postage label arrives.
- Re-use a McKesson vaccine delivery carton to ship the vaccines. If you do not have a carton available, wait until your next regular vaccine delivery and use that carton. Do not use cracked or broken Styrofoam containers.
- Other shipping containers may be used but you must pack the vaccines carefully so that they will not be damaged or broken in transit. If you are not using a leakproof Styrofoam carton, put the vaccines in Ziploc bags.

### YOUR OPIONION MATTERS!

Fill out our survey at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/941689/The-Vaccine-Newsletter-Reader-Survey>. Help us make a more useful newsletter!

Contact the VFC Program at 206-296-4774 or [vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:vfcinfo@kingcounty.gov) with any questions.